

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: GRAN MARISCAL DE AYACUCHO FOUNDATION

SUMMARY: EXECUTIVE DECREE SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA JULY 1, 1975, ESTABLISHED THE GRAN MARISCAL DE AYACUCHO FOUNDATION. THE FOUNDATION SUCCEEDS THE FORMER GMA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY CORDIPLAN FOR THE PAST YEAR. THE FOUNDATION PLANS TO INCREASE THE SCOPE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND WILL ATTEMPT TO COORDINATE THE MANY EXISTING GOVERNMENT AND OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS.

1. ON JULY 1 THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA SIGNED AN EXECUTIVE DECREE WHICH ESTABLISHED A GRAN MARISCAL DE AYACUCHO FOUNDATION. IT TAKES OVER FROM CORDIPLAN THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE GRAN MARISCAL DE AYACUCHO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ESTABLISHED ON JUNE 4, 1974. THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE FOUNDATION ARE: "TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PREPARATION OF HUMAN RESOURCES IN THE AREAS OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE WHICH HAVE BEEN GIVEN PRIORITY IN THE NATIONAL PLAN FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; AND TO FINANCE, DIRECT, AND EVALUATE THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING THE HUMAN RESOURCES AS REQUIRED FOR THE EXECUTION OF INVESTMENT PROJECTS CONTAINED IN THE NATIONAL PLAN."

2. THE FOUNDATION WILL AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS, EDUCATIONAL CREDITS, PROVIDE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL AID AND WILL PROMOTE STUDIES

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AND RESEARCH. IT WILL CONTRACT SERVICES, CONDUCT STUDIES, AND

PREPARE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PERSONNEL OF THOSE INSTITUTIONS WHICH ASSIST AND COMPLEMENT ITS GOALS. NO LESS THAN SIXTY-SIX PERCENT OF THE TOTAL RESOURCES PROVIDED IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET WILL BE UTILIZED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS OF MODERATE ECONOMIC MEANS FROM THE INTERIOR FOR STUDIES EITHER AT EDUCATIONAL CENTERS IN VENEZUELA OR OVERSEAS IN TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES NEEDED FOR THE NATION'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

3. THE FOUNDATION WILL BE FUNDED AS FOLLOWS:

A. AN INITIAL GRANT OF FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND BOLIVARES WILL BE MADE BY THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA.

B. A FURTHER GRANT OF ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY MILLION BOLIVARES FROM THE FORMER GRAN MARISCAL DE AYACUCHO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

C. AMOUNTS ALLOCATED IN THE NATIONAL BUDGET FOR SPECIFIC FISCAL ACTIVITIES (THESE MAY REACH TWO HUNDRED MILLION BOLIVARES ANNUALLY).

D. SPECIAL GRANTS FROM THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE.

F. DONATIONS AND GRANTS RECEIVED FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS.

4. THE FOUNDATION WILL BE MANAGED BY A BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMPOSED OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING (CORDIPLAN) OR HIS DEPUTY, WHO WILL PRESIDE; AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, AND THREE DIRECTORS REPRESENTING THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, MINES AND HYDROCARBONS, AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH (CONICIT).

5. THE FOUNDATION WILL ALSO HAVE A BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOLLOWING MEMBERS: THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, WHO WILL PRESIDE; THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT; THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION; THE MINISTER OF MINES AND HYDROCARBONS; THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH (CONICIT); THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION (INCE); THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CORDIPLAN; REPRESENTATIVES FROM BOTH THE VENEZUELAN CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (CTV) AND THE FEDERATION OF CHAMBERS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF COMMERCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND PRODUCTION; AND BY TWO PUBLIC MEMBERS NAMED BY THE PRESIDENT.

6. COMMENTS: THE DECREE MAKES THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED FOUNDATION A DIRECT SATELLITE OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. IT SEEMS THE CHANGE WAS DICTATED BY THE INTERNAL PRESSURES WITHIN CORDIPLAN, THE NEED TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF THE EXISTING PROGRAM, AND THE NEED TO COORDINATE THE MANY EXISTING SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS.

THE NEW FOUNDATION WILL LEGALLY ENLARGE THE SCOPE OF ITS PREDECESSOR'S ACTIVITIES, AND IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE MORE INDEPENDENT AND FLEXIBLE, WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GAINING MORE POWER AND PRESTIGE. HE WILL LEGALLY REPRESENT THE NEW FOUNDATION AND SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THE NEW DECREE GIVES TOKEN AUTONOMY TO THE FOUNDATION AND THUS PERMITTING THE GOV FORMALLY TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF FROM INTERNAL PROBLEMS BUT TO CONTINUE IN FIRM CONTROL THROUGH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW FOUNDATION DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THE PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE STUDENT PLACEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES WHICH HAS NOW REACHED SIXTY-NINE PERCENT OF THE TOTAL. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FEELS THAT PRESSURES TO "BALANCE" PLACEMENT (I.E., BETWEEN U.S. AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES) WILL CONTINUE.

THE APPOINTMENT OF LOPEZ TO SERVE AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FOUNDATION IS AN INDICATION THAT LOPEZ CONTINUES TO ENJOY PERSONAL SUPPORT OF BOTH PRESIDENT PEREZ AND OF MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING.

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